

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /073 W
-----100828Z 110282 /23

P R 061540Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2619
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROM
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1183

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, CSCE, CZ
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 STILL ALIVE

REF PRAGUE 1063

1. SUMMARY: TWO MORE CHARTER 77 DOCUMENTS, NUMBERED 9 AND 10, INDICATE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP STILL ABLE TO FUNCTION, ALTHOUGH BARELY, DESPITE POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES APPLIED BY REGIME. CONSENSUS AMONG SIGNERS APPEARS TO BE DISSOLVING WITH
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NO NEW LEADERSHIP IN SIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW DOCUMENTS: EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED TYPEWRITTEN COPIES OF TWO DOCUMENTS PURPORTING TO BE CHARTER 77 MANIFESTOES NUMBERS 9 AND 10. IN ADDITION WE HAVE OBTAINED, FROM THE SAME DISSIDENT SOURCE, TYPEWRITTEN COPY OF GENERAL PROSECUTOR'S LEGAL BRIEF OUTLINING REGIME'S CASE AGAINST CHARTER 77--PRESUMABLY THE BRIEF

REFERRED TO BY THE LABOR COURT WHICH UPHELD DISMISSAL
OF ZDENEK MLYNAR FROM HIS JOB(REFTEL).

3. DOCUMENT NO. 9, AS HAS BEEN BRIEFLY REPORTED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS,
IS DATED APRIL 22, BEARS THE SIGNATURE OF JIRI HAJEK, AND DEALS
WITH FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION.
COUCHED IN THE SAME CAREFUL LEGAL STYLE AS MOST PREVIOUS CHARTER
77 DOCUMENTS, IT CONTAINS NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO INTERNATIONAL
COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO CZECHOSLOVAK CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.
STARTING WITH ARTICLE 22 OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CONSTITUTION, WHICH
GUARANTEES EQUALITY TO ALL CITIZENS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE,
DOCUMENT ARGUES THAT A BELIEVER OR "THINKING PERSON" SHOULD HAVE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME "A TEACHER, PROFESSOR, SCIENTIFIC
WORKER, OR EMPLOYEE OF STATE ORGANS,COURTS, PROSECUTORS OFFICE
AND OTIAR INSTITUTIONS, AND SHOULD NOT HAVE TO HIDE HIS FAITH AND
CONVICTIONS IN DOING SO." DOCUMENT GOES ON TO ARGUE FOR FREEDOM
TO PURSUE FULL RELIGIOUS LIFE.

4. DOCUMENT NUMBER TEN, DATED APRIL 29 AND ALSO BEARING NAME
OF JIRI HAJEK RECOUNTS ILLEGAL MEASURES BY REGIME AGAINST CHARTER
SIGNERS IN FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1977. IT CONCLUDES WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES, AND REPEATS OFFER TO JOIN WITH REGIME IN A
DIALOGUE. NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND DOCUMENT NO. 10 WAS TO HAVE
BEEN ISSUED AS NO. 11, BUT THAT AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED ON
THE DOCUMENT WHICH WAS TO HAV PRECEDED IT, SAID TO HAVE
CONCERNED CULTURAL POLICY. END NOTE.

5. THERE IS SAID TO BE AN EDITORIAL BOARD OF TEN TO TWELVE
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PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARING MATERIALS FOR USE "AT BELGRADE:" OUR
SOURCES THINK, HOWEVER, NO BIG "SPLASH" IS CONTEMPLATED WITHIN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON THE EVE OF BELGRADE TALKS.

6. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY CZECH SOURCE CLOSE TO CHARTER GROUP THAT
NEW LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN SELECTED, BUT THAT NO NAMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED

COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS NEW LEADERSHIP IS
RELATED TO THAT ALLEGEDLY SELECTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. END COMMENT.

7. ALLEGED PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S BRIEF, DATED MARCH 31, CONTENDS
THAT CONTENT OF CHARTER 77 IS "DIRECTED AGAINST SOCIALIST SOCIETY
AND THE STATE." IT THEN ALLEGES THAT CHARTER VIOLATES
ARTICLES 4, 29, 19 AND 34 OF THE CONSTITUTION.

8. HARASSMENT: IN RELATED EVENTS, IVAN HAVEL, BROTHER OF IMPRISONED
WRITER VACLAV HAVEL, HAS LOST HIS JOB. A LEADING MATHEMATICIAN
AND COMPUTER SCIENTIST, IVAN HAVEL REPORTEDLY THOUGHT HIMSELF
IMMUNE TO REPRISALS AND WAS NOT A CHARTER SIGNATORY. THE REASON

GIVEN FOR HIS DISMISAL WAS THAT HE ATTENDED PATOCKA FUNERAL.

9. EXILE: AUSTRIAN CONSUL HAS CONFIRMED PRESS REPORT THAT ONE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN CHARTER 77 SIGNER HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO AUSTRIA.

10. DISSIDENT ACTIVITY: WE WERE TOLD BY YOUNG CZECH THAT APRIL 20 A GROUP OF CHARTER SYMPATHIZERS RELEASED HOT-AIR OR GAS BALOONS BEARING SLOGAN "WE ARE WITH YOU, CHARTER 77" IN WENCESLAS SQUARE PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS. IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR BALOONS TO BE RECOVERED BY POLICE, WHO ARRESTED THREE PERSONS, BUT NOT THE TRUE CULPRITS, SAID OUR SOURCE.

11. WE HAVE SEEN PAVEL KOHOUT, WHO IS ALIVE AND WELL AND STILL LIVING IN HIS APARTMENT ATOP SWISS EMBASSY, ALTHOUGH IN A FEW DAYS HE AND MRS. KOHOUT EXPECT TO MOVE TO COUNTRY HOUSE. KOHOUT SAID HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO POLICE STATION IN LAST WEEK OF APRIL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ASKED IF HE WOULD EMIGRATE. UPON REFUSING TO DO SO, KOHOUT WAS RELEASED.

12. AS OF MAY 3, HEAVY POLICE GUARD REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN FROM IN FRONT OF SEVERAL DISSIDENTS' DWELLINGS. AT LEAST THREE DISSIDENTS DETAINED FOR INTERROGATION BEFORE MAY 1 CELEBRATIONS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

13. IN SPEECH TO CPCZ GATHERING MAY 5 ON ANNIVERSARY OF PRAGUE UPRISING, CPCZ SECRETARY JAN FOJTIK CALLED FOR CONTINUED STRUGGLE AGAINST "BUROGEOIS IDEOLOGUES," NAMING VACLAV CERNY AND THE LATE JAN PATOCKA AS EXAMPLES OF THE LATTER, AS WELL AS FERDINAND PEROUTKA, AN AGED PHILOSOPHER WHOSE EXACT SIN WE ARE UNAWARE OF.

14. COMMENT: THERE IS STILL LIFE IN THE CHARTER MOVEMENT, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE PRIMARILY ON A CELLULAR BASIS, WITH NO ORGANIZED NERVOUS SYSTEM ANY LONGER CORRINATING FUNCTIONS. REGIME ANTI-CHARTER ACTIVITY FOR THE MOMENT SEEMS TO BE PRO FORMA,BUT THE AGENCIES OF REPRESSION AND HARASSMENT HAVE CLEARLY NOT BEEN COMPLETELY CALLED OFF.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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